

QUERY CONTROL FORM

RTIS USE ONLY

Application No. 09/818,127
Examiner-GAU Friedhoff
2832

Prepared by	<u>ewc</u>
Date	<u>1-19-04</u>
No. of queries	<u>- 1 -</u>

Tracking Number	05877642
Week Date	12-15-03
IFW	

JACKET

a. Serial No.	f. Foreign Priority	k. Print Claim(s)	p. PTO-1449
b. Applicant(s)	g. Disclaimer	l. Print Fig.	q. PTOL-85b
c. Continuing Data	h. Microfiche Appendix	m. Searched Column	r. Abstract
d. PCT	i. Title	n. PTO-270/328	s. Sheets/Figs
e. Domestic Priority	j. Claims Allowed	o. PTO-892	t. Other

SPECIFICATION

- a. Page Missing
- b. Text Continuity
- c. Holes through Data
- d. Other Missing Text
- e. Illegible Text
- f. Duplicate Text
- g. Brief Description
- h. Sequence Listing
- i. Appendix
- j. Amendments
- k. Other

CLAIMS

- a. Claim(s) Missing
- b. Improper Dependency
- c. Duplicate Numbers
- d. Incorrect Numbering
- e. Index Disagrees
- f. Punctuation
- g. Amendments
- h. Bracketing
- i. Missing Text
- j. Duplicate Text
- k. Other

MESSAGE

A, insert for page 8 is incomplete.
3rd page of amendment A needed

Please supply.
Thank you
pwc

RESPONSE

Everything is fine on the Amendment
Page 3rd was not missing.

UK 5/13/04

initials

initials

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Mike Blossfeld et al.
Serial No. : 09/818,127
Filing Date : March 27, 2001
For : MULTI-STAGE PUSHBUTTON
SWITCH APPARATUS
Group Art Unit : 2832
Examiner : N. Nguyen
Attorney Docket No. : TRW(TE)4704

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 4, 2001,
please amend the above-identified application, as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8,
line 12, and ending on page 9, line 2, with the following
rewritten paragraph:

The apparatus 10 further includes a third
membrane 60. The third membrane 60 has a portion
secured to an upper surface of the depressible
member 20 as shown in the drawings. The third

7A
membrane has a surface portion 24 that is engaged by the operator to apply force to depress the depressible member 20. The third membrane 60 encloses the depressible member 20 and the first and second membranes 30, 40 from environmental conditions. The membrane 60 is secured to the mounting surface 50. The third membrane 60 may be a seal pad constructed of a suitable elastomer such as rubber. The third membrane 60 provides minimal resistance to depression of the depressible member 20, and thus a minimal force acting to return the depressible member 20, to the position of Fig. 1.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 6, as follows:

6. (Amended) The apparatus as defined in claim 5 wherein said second membrane is at least partially metal and engages said electrical switch contact to complete a circuit.

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Serial No. 09/818,127

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 have been rejected as anticipated by Steiner, GB 2,100,517A. Claim 3 has been rejected as unpatentable over Steiner in view of DeVolpi, US 5,912,612. Claims 4 and 7 have been rejected as unpatentable over Steiner in view of Sadamori et al., US 5,924,555. The Specification and claim 6 have been amended to correct minor informalities.

Claim 1 recites the first membrane (30) initially acting alone and then acting simultaneously with the second membrane (40). The flexible sheet (32) of Steiner acts only simultaneously with conical portion (15) (Fig. 2). Whenever the flexible sheet (32) is deflected, the conical portion (15) is necessarily also deflected due to both elements (15 and 32) being fixed to the pushbutton (18). It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 3 recites a third membrane (60) enclosing the first and second membranes (30, 40). Steiner does not disclose this feature (Office Action, paragraph 5). DeVolpi discloses a cover (10) around a membrane switch (30) and a rigid backer surface (32) (Fig. 9). The Office Action states that it would have been obvious to use the cover (10) of DeVolpi with the switch of Steiner "for the purpose of flexibility to return the switch to the original position when the external force is removed" (Office Action, paragraph 5). The conical portion (15) of Steiner acts to return the pushbutton (18) to its original position (Steiner, page 1, lines 103-107). Thus,